

the martyrdoms of the early Church. In that region in more peaceable and hopeful days the delegates to the General Synod assembled, and held their meetings in an old Catholic Church that was given up to the Protestants at the beginning of the present century. The Synod was not a large body, consisting only of ninety-one members, ministers and laymen representing the various provincial Synods.

The two principal questions discussed were a new form of liturgical service and the appointment of theological professors. Several years ago the late Dr. Bersier introduced a new liturgy into the Church de l'Eloie, Paris, of which he was for so long the able and beloved pastor. This was well received by his congregation, and the Provincial Synod, basing their action on the favourable result of the experiment, urged the adoption for the whole Church of a liturgy on the same lines as those on which Dr. Bersier's Book of Service had been prepared. The French Church, however, is in the main conservative. The provincial Synods generally disapproved of any material change, and the late General Synod left the question as it was before, and the devotional service of the French Church will for some time to come continue to be conducted as it has been since the days of John Calvin. There is evident reluctance to depart from the simple and plain usages with which the people for generations have been familiar. At the same time those who advocate liturgical reform make out a good case for a little more adaptation to the growing culture and artistic development of the present time. They claim that there is a felt need for an advance in this direction. A writer says:—

The liturgical element has a considerable part to play in the religious education of souls. It is important that this part of worship should not be poor or dry under the plea of simplicity or austerity; but that it satisfy the various wants of souls, and, in particular, the want of adoration. Our worship is much too didactic. The essential part is the sermon. Now, when the sermon is but slightly interesting—which happens occasionally with us as perhaps also with you, brothers of America!—one leaves the house of God without having received the edification one came to seek. What is more—in the heart of a nation like ours, so in love with art, so alive to all that is beautiful—the Protestant worship, severe as it is, celebrated in temples bare of ornament and without the slightest architectural beauty, is little adapted to attract. Protestantism would have made much more rapid progress in France had its worship been more poetic and less cold.

The other exciting question discussed at the Synod at Vigan was the appointment of lecturers in the theological colleges. It is in connection with this subject that the hampering nature of State connection is more distinctly seen. The Minister of Public Instruction, without consulting those most immediately interested, appointed lecturers in the theological college at Montauban. This course gave rise to earnest remonstrances, and the Minister was so far influenced by them that he proposed the consistories should appoint a few of their members as commissioners to be consulted before appointments were made. This proposal was submitted for the Synod's acceptance or rejection, the usual method of disposing of communications from the Government. The Synod, however, chose to act with a creditable degree of independence, neither accepting nor declining the proposal. Instead they empowered their permanent commission to decide on the best method of securing to the Church the right of being consulted in the choice of its professors of theology. It is thought that if a satisfactory adjustment of the question is not made with the Minister of Instruction, the Chamber of Deputies may withhold the usual grant set apart for the colleges, as has already been done in the case of the Roman Catholic institutions. Even this is not anticipated as a serious calamity, for, says a correspondent, "this will be a step forward in the road which leads modern democracy to the realization of Cavour's famous formula 'A Free Church in a Free State.'" Imagine a minister of the Dominion or a provincial Cabinet appointing our theological professors without saying to the Church by your leave! The heat caused by such a proceeding would soon raise a burning question of large dimensions.

One interesting incident of the Synod meeting in the Cevennes is thus described:—

The Synod of Vigan was the occasion of a most touching spectacle. On Sunday, July 6, all the Protestants of the town and environs were invited to assemble in the open air in a forest of chestnut trees upon one of the neighbouring mountains, at the very spot where the old Huguenots, deprived of their temples, met to celebrate their worship in spite of the king's prohibition. More than four thousand persons met in this truly sacred spot around the pulpit of the pastors of the Desert, preserved as a precious relic. We commenced the service, as of old, by the baptism of several children. We sang the old psalms sung by our fathers, after which several addresses were listened to in religious silence, with an emotion easier to understand than to describe. Such assemblies revive happily in our Protestant populations of the south of France the spirit of our fathers, their invincible fidelity to the Gospel standard and their admirable self-sacrifice. They are

also useful in inspiring us with gratitude for the complete religious liberty we enjoy under the government of the Republic. A meeting like that I speak of would have been impossible under Napoleon III.

THE NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

THE history of Christian missions in the South Sea Islands reads like a modern edition of the Acts of the Apostles. Fifty years ago these islands in the far Pacific were the scene of natural loveliness that they are to-day, but in other respects their faces are renewed. Then human nature had reached its lowest in the scale of degradation. A debasing idolatry was everywhere prevalent. The most terrible cruelties were constantly perpetrated. Decimating wars were of frequent occurrence, and cannibalism was widely practised. Now the immense improvement visible leads those who contemplate the beneficent change wrought to exclaim with devout thankfulness and hope, "What hath God wrought!" No one who believes in the saving power of the Gospel can doubt for a moment that to its influence the pleasing transformation is directly traceable. In the islands of the South Sea, as everywhere else, the Gospel has been proved to be the power of God unto salvation. It was in God's name that the missionaries went there to preach the Gospel, they trusted in the Holy Spirit's power to bless their preaching and make it effectual, and in humble submission to the orderings of an all-wise but inscrutable Providence some of their number submissively yielded their lives and joined the noble army of martyrs.

Dr. Steele, of Sydney, New South Wales, has written for the current number of the *Missionary Review* a most interesting paper on "The Jubilee of the New Hebrides Mission." Much of the interest necessarily centres in the island of Eromanga, where the first heralds of the cross, Williams and Harris, of the London Missionary Society, were murdered fifty years ago. Like those who, not counting their lives dear unto them, fought for civil and religious freedom when imperilled, the missionaries of our own day have not been deterred by danger however threatening. The pioneers who fell at their posts were sure to have worthy successors. Eighteen years after the death of John Williams the first to enter the field was a Canadian, the Rev. G. N. Gordon, a devoted, earnest man, every way qualified for the work to which his life was consecrated. He and his wife landed on Eromanga in 1857 and for four years laboured with much zeal, but if they took up the work which Williams endeavoured to begin they followed in his footsteps through the gateway of martyrdom into the celestial city. During his brief work on the island Mr. Gordon had been able to gather a few converts, the Gospel according to Luke and other portions of Scripture had been translated and printed in the language of the islanders. When the sad tidings reached Gordon's native home, with rare courage, devotion and consecration, his brother, Rev. James Douglas Gordon, said in effect, "Here am I, send me." Three years afterward he embarked on the *Dayspring* making her first voyage, and landed in Eromanga in 1864. He continued diligently engaged in his work of preaching, instruction, Scripture translation and visiting other islands, among them that of Santo, where Mr. Annand and his wife are now. While engaged in the work of revising his translation of the Acts of the Apostles, having reached as far as the death of Stephen, he, too, was killed by a savage islander.

James Gordon's death did not end the mission. Another devoted Nova Scotian was ready to go to the dangerous post, with faith as strong and hope undimmed. The Rev. Hugh A. Robertson, who visited the Canadian Church a few years ago and won the esteem and affection of the people wherever he went, took up the work that had been cut short by the martyrdom of the second Gordon. Robertson's life has been mercifully spared, and his work has been abundantly blessed. As a result of it there are now upwards of 200 communicants, thirty-three native teachers, and the elevating influence of Christianity is felt throughout the island. A church in memory of the martyrs who fell at Eromanga has been built, and a descendant of Williams' murderer took part in the services at its opening. The work is steadily extending, and, judging by the progress of the past, it will not be long before all the islands of the Pacific enjoy the blessings of the Gospel and the civilization inseparable from its reception. The success of modern missionary enterprise, wherever it has been attempted, is an added testimony to the power of divine truth and a witness of its heavenly origin.

Books and Magazines.

MR. IRA CORNWALL, Secretary of St. John, N. B., Board of Trade, has forwarded a copy of "My Own Canadian Home," a patriotic national song. The words are by E. G. Nelson and the music by Morley McLaughlan.

THE ARENA. (Boston: The Arena Publishing Co.)—This many-sided magazine has taken a high place in popular estimation. It has a wider range than is to be found in other first-class magazines. Writers of all shades of opinion have access to its pages, and questions of great practical interest are discussed from opposite standpoints. It has many excellent features. The August number has an attractive table of contents.

RECOLLECTIONS OF GENERAL GRANT. By George W. Childs. (Philadelphia: Collins Printing House.)—Mr. Childs commissioned the painting of the portraits of Generals Grant, Sherman and Sheridan by accomplished artists, and recently presented them to the United States Military Academy at West Point. In addition to interesting personal recollections of the great soldier and President, Mr. Childs gives an account of the presentation ceremonies.

MARIE GOURDEN. By Maud Ogilvy. (Montreal: Lovell & Co.)—This is an age of novel writing and novel reading, and of the making of this as of other kinds of books there is no end. The authoress is a member of a leading family in Montreal. As a maiden effort her work has much to recommend it to public patronage. The book has had a successful sale and a second edition is called for. It deals with life on the Lower St. Lawrence and will well repay perusal. While in Montreal the Duke of Connaught requested that a copy be sent him when the work was published. He has since acknowledged its receipt.

THE August issue of "Book News" completes the eighth year of its publication, and contains an index of the reviews, literary miscellany, the portraits of authors and writers, with biographical sketches published since last September. The portrait of Edward Bellamy, author of "Looking Backward," is of timely interest and is fitly accompanied by a short commentary on his writings, and an article by Rev. Washington Gladden on "The New Socialism in Literature." "With the New Books," and "The Descriptive Price List" offer opinions and titles to help choose from the month's books, and the pictures from some of the illustrated books are an additional assistance.

KNOX COLLEGE MONTHLY. (Toronto: D. T. McAinsb.)—The chief papers in the August number are "Russell Wallace on Darwinism," by Rev. W. A. Hunter, M.A.—a clear and comprehensive statement of the actual state of the evolution question. "A Commonplace Holiday," by J. A. M. This same J. A. M. writes racily and interestingly, and gives his moralizings in excellent form and force. The next paper is sure to attract attention as it deals ably with what bids fair to be for a long time to come a burning question—the taxation and labour problems, under the title "The Church and Justice," by W. A. Douglas, B.A. The Rev. D. MacGillivray, B.D., Mrs. Margaret Caven Wilson and Rev. W. A. Wilson, M.A., contribute to the Missionary Department.

GIVING AND HOW TO GIVE. By the Rev. John Ridley, Rector of Trinity Church, Galt. (Galt: Jeffray Brothers.)—Mr. Ridley, by the publication of this little pamphlet, renders a timely service to the Christian Church in all its branches. It was originally prepared by request as a paper to be read in the Rural Deanery of Brant, and afterwards in Woodstock. It is not always prudent to listen to the advice of those who, having no responsibility in the matter, effusively urge publication of "valuable papers to which they have listened with so much pleasure." In this instance good judgment was manifested in the request, and equally good judgment on Mr. Ridley's part in complying with it. It is an able and lucid exposition of the true principles of Christian giving, and incidentally cites a number of expedients for raising money for religious purposes that, if they do not rouse pity and indignation, ought to bring the blush of shame to the cheeks and a sting to the consciences of those who devise such schemes for filling the Lord's treasury.

IN the recent issue of the *Southern Presbyterian Quarterly* there is an able paper on "Christian Apologetics," by Professor F. R. Beattie, of Columbia Theological Seminary. It is a clear and comprehensive survey of the entire field occupied by this department of Christian Science. The importance of this branch of study in the present day is claimed to be high, but it is not overstated. The scope and purpose of Apologetics are lucidly presented as being for the defence and vindication of the truth and the refutation of error. The paper concludes with a few words in regard to the spirit in which apologetical studies ought to be pursued. Dr. Beattie recommends confidence and candour, "confidence in the truth and strength of Christianity, and candour in defending it." There ought to be earnestness and reverence, while all bigotry and prejudice should be avoided. Dr. Beattie counsels faithful adherence to the fundamental truths of evangelical Christianity.

THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—The number for August is one of great interest. Dr. Bradford, of Montclair, opens with a graceful and graphic sketch of "A Missionary Heroine," the first wife of the heroic Judson. Dr. Pierson reviews and sums up his marvellous missionary tour abroad. He also has an article on the "Lack of Consecration and Prayer." Professor Schodde gives a translation of a paper by the late Dr. Franz Delitzsch on "The Conversion of the Jews." Dr. Storow concludes his series of valuable historical papers on "Missions in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries." There is a short and able paper on "Prayer and Missions." "The Jubilee of the New Hebrides Mission" will thrill the reader. And so will the story of Eliza Agnew in Ceylon, showing what one woman can do. "A Chinese Secret Society and its Workings," by the editor of the *Chinese Evangelist*, will be a surprise to most readers. Dr. Ellinwood discusses "Missions in Pagan Lands," with his usual intelligence and force. The other seven departments contain a vast amount of missionary intelligence, choice correspondence, a full account of the proceedings of the late International Missionary Union, Monthly Concert matter, editorial notes, tables of statistics and reports of many missionary societies, the usual Monthly Bulletin of latest news, closing with an Index of Contents by which every item in the entire number can be seen at a glance.